(SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The meeting is scheduled to take place on 14th and 15th May, 1988.

Criteria for Excise Duty

1542. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any rational basis for deciding the rate of excise duty on various items of manufacture; and

(b) what are the criteria for determining excise duty on various items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The rates of excise duty on manufactured goods are decided on the basis of a variety of considerations, which include the objectives of economic growth, equity, simplicity in administraton, and revenue raising.

Steep fall in the deposits of Bank of Baroda

1543. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a steep fall in the deposits of Bank of Baroda, particularly in Gujart during the last three years and the Bank is on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, what were the deposits in **Gujarat during the last three years,** year-wise and whether the Chairman of the Bank has advanced loans amounting to crores of rupees to his relations and friends during this period and that the loans are beyond recovery; and

(c) if so, whether Government will order a high level inquiry into the matter and post a capable Chairman from the region to bring back the Bank out of the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The deposits of Bank of Baroda are on the increase during the last three years. As at the end of 1985, 1986 and 1987 the aggregate deposits of Bank **of Baroda were Rs. 4316 crores, Rs.** 5314 crores and Rs. 5931 crores respectively and in Gujarat the corresponding deposits of the Bank were Rs. 1304 crores, Rs. 1550 crores and Rs. 1769 crores respectively.

(b) The deposits of all Scheduled Commercial Banks in Gujarat as at the end of 1985, 1986 and 1987 were Rs. 5326 crores, Rs.6201 crores and Rs. 7311 crores respectively.

Reserve Bank of India has reported that they have not received any complaint that the Chairman of the Bank of Baroda has advanced loans amounting to crores of rupees to his relations and friends and those loans are beyond recovery.

(c) Does not arise.

Freedom Fighters

1544. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the ratings **who participated in the Naval uprising** in 1946, are not considered as freedom fighters and are not entitled to Tamra Patra or the freedom fighters' pension; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to include them and recognise them as freedom fighters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) Persons who had participated in RIN *Mutiny 1946 and were subsequently* **dismissed and discharged as a result are eligible for grant of Samman Pension.** They are also eligible for Tamrapatras **and the State Governments have been asked to award the same to them.**